



**University of  
Zurich<sup>UZH</sup>**

**Zurich Open Repository and  
Archive**

University of Zurich  
University Library  
Strickhofstrasse 39  
CH-8057 Zurich  
[www.zora.uzh.ch](http://www.zora.uzh.ch)

---

Year: 2010

---

## **Ample genetic variation but no evidence for genotype specificity in an all-parthenogenetic host-parasitoid interaction**

Sandrock, C ; Gouskov, A ; Vorburger, C

**Abstract:** Antagonistic coevolution between hosts and parasites can result in negative frequency-dependent selection and may thus be an important mechanism maintaining genetic variation in populations. Negative frequency-dependence emerges readily if interactions between hosts and parasites are genotype-specific such that no host genotype is most resistant to all parasite genotypes, and no parasite genotype is most infective on all hosts. Although there is increasing evidence for genotype specificity in interactions between hosts and pathogens or microparasites, the picture is less clear for insect host-parasitoid interactions. Here, we addressed this question in the black bean aphid (*Aphis fabae*) and its most important parasitoid *Lysiphlebus fabarum*. Because both antagonists are capable of parthenogenetic reproduction, this system allows for powerful tests of genotype  $\times$  genotype interactions. Our test consisted of exposing multiple host clones to different parthenogenetic lines of parasitoids in all combinations, and this experiment was repeated with animals from four different sites. All aphids were free of endosymbiotic bacteria known to increase resistance to parasitoids. We observed ample genetic variation for host resistance and parasitoid infectivity, but there was no significant host clone  $\times$  parasitoid line interaction, and this result was consistent across the four sites. Thus, there is no evidence for genotype specificity in the interaction between *A. fabae* and *L. fabarum*, suggesting that the observed variation is based on rather general mechanisms of defence and attack.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1420-9101.2009.01925.x>

Posted at the Zurich Open Repository and Archive, University of Zurich

ZORA URL: <https://doi.org/10.5167/uzh-28817>

Journal Article

Accepted Version

Originally published at:

Sandrock, C; Gouskov, A; Vorburger, C (2010). Ample genetic variation but no evidence for genotype specificity in an all-parthenogenetic host-parasitoid interaction. *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*, 23(3):578-585.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1420-9101.2009.01925.x>

# **Ample genetic variation but no evidence for genotype-specificity in an all-parthenogenetic host-parasitoid interaction**

C. SANDROCK, A. GOUSKOV & C. VORBURGER<sup>1</sup>

*Institute of Zoology, University of Zürich, 8057 Zürich, Switzerland*

Running title: Specificity of aphid-parasitoid interactions

<sup>1</sup>Present address & correspondence: Christoph Vorburger  
Institute of Integrative Biology  
ETH Zürich  
8092 Zürich  
Switzerland  
&  
EAWAG  
Überlandstrasse 133  
8600 Dübendorf  
Switzerland

telephone: ++41 44 823 51 96  
fax: ++41 44 823 50 28  
e-mail: [christoph.vorburger@eawag.ch](mailto:christoph.vorburger@eawag.ch)

## Abstract

Antagonistic coevolution between hosts and parasites can result in negative frequency-dependent selection and may thus be an important mechanism maintaining genetic variation in populations. Negative frequency-dependence emerges readily if interactions between hosts and parasites are genotype-specific such that no host genotype is most resistant to all parasite genotypes, and no parasite genotype is most infective on all hosts. While there is increasing evidence for genotype-specificity in interactions between hosts and pathogens or microparasites, the picture is less clear for insect host-parasitoid interactions. Here we addressed this question in the black bean aphid (*Aphis fabae*) and its most important parasitoid *Lysiphlebus fabarum*. Because both antagonists are capable of parthenogenetic reproduction, this system allows for powerful tests of genotype  $\times$  genotype interactions. Our test consisted of exposing multiple host clones to different parthenogenetic lines of parasitoids in all combinations, and this experiment was repeated with animals from four different sites. All aphids were free of endosymbiotic bacteria known to increase resistance to parasitoids. We observed ample genetic variation for host resistance and parasitoid infectivity, but there was no significant host clone  $\times$  parasitoid line interaction, and this result was consistent across the four sites. Thus, there is no evidence for genotype-specificity in the interaction between *A. fabae* and *L. fabarum*, suggesting that the observed variation is based on rather general mechanisms of defence and attack.

**Keywords:** *Aphis fabae*, genotype-by-genotype interactions, host-parasitoid coevolution, infectivity, *Lysiphlebus fabarum*, parthenogenesis, resistance

**Introduction**

Most organisms suffer from parasites, even many that are parasites themselves (Price, 1980). The ubiquity of parasitism and the fact that hosts and parasites are engaged in a coevolutionary arms race of adaptation and counter-adaptation led to the hypothesis that host-parasite interactions are an important mechanism maintaining genetic variation in populations (Judson, 1995), and may even select for sexual reproduction and recombination (Jaenike, 1978; Hamilton, 1980). This assumption hinges on a property that might be inherent in such interactions, namely that reciprocal selection between hosts and parasites is negative frequency-dependent, providing rare genotypes with a selective advantage that prevents their loss from the population. Negative frequency-dependence may arise either under high costs of resistance and infectivity, such that investment in defence is only favoured in a largely undefended population, for example, or if the interaction between hosts and parasites exhibits high genetic specificity (Hamilton *et al.*, 1990; Frank, 1996; Sasaki, 2000; Agrawal & Lively, 2002). If this specificity is such that no individual host genotype is most resistant to all parasite genotypes and no parasite genotype is most infective on all host genotypes, negative frequency-dependence emerges very readily (Frank, 1994; Parker, 1994). The recognition of the evolutionary importance of genotype-specificity has led to an increasing number of studies testing this assumption, many of which reported significant host genotype  $\times$  parasite genotype ( $G \times G$ ) interactions (e.g. Webster & Woolhouse, 1998; Carius *et al.*, 2001; Schulenburg & Ewbank, 2004; Lambrechts *et al.*, 2005; Salvaudon *et al.*, 2007). This suggests that the potential for negative frequency-dependent selection is realised in many host-parasite systems.

It would appear that reciprocal selection is particularly intense in insect host-parasitoid interactions, because their outcome is always fatal for one of the antagonists. Parasitoids are either killed by their hosts' defences, or they kill their hosts if these defences fail. The term virulence, typically defined as the reduction in host fitness resulting from infection by a parasite (Read, 1994), is therefore of limited use for parasitoids. If a parasitoid is able to overcome host defences, the host

will invariably be killed and variation in virulence is restricted to more subtle differences such as time until killing or residual fecundity before death. Therefore, we will use the term infectivity for the ability of an insect parasitoid to parasitise its host. This is not completely satisfactory, as this term is normally used in the context of infectious diseases, but for lack of another term we will also apply it to parasitoids. While there is abundant evidence of genetic variation for resistance in hosts as well as infectivity in parasitoids (e.g. Henter, 1995; Henter & Via, 1995; Kraaijeveld & Godfray, 1999; Ferrari *et al.*, 2001; Kraaijeveld *et al.*, 2001; von Burg *et al.*, 2008), surprisingly little is known about the degree of specificity in insect host-parasitoid interactions. Maybe best addressed is this issue in *Drosophila melanogaster* and its hymenopteran parasitoids *Asobara tabida* and *Leptopilina boulardi*. There is evidence for  $G \times G$  interactions based on major gene effects for *D. melanogaster* and *L. boulardi*, yet the interaction is such that universal infectivity is possible (Dupas *et al.*, 2003). Selection in *D. melanogaster* for resistance to a specific strain of *As. tabida* resulted in higher resistance to other strains, too (Kraaijeveld & Godfray, 1999), and this increased resistance even extended to other species of parasitoids (Fellowes *et al.*, 1999). Kraaijeveld & Godfray (1999) interpreted this as evidence for resistance and infectivity being quantitative traits that lack genetic specificity, although they acknowledged that the relevant experiments have yet to be done.

We have recently established the black bean aphid, *Aphis fabae*, and its most important parasitoid, *Lysiphlebus fabarum*, as a laboratory-based study system that is ideally suited to address the issue of genotype-specificity in insect host-parasitoid interactions. *Aphis fabae* is a cyclical parthenogen and can be maintained clonally for any period of time under suitable conditions. *Lysiphlebus fabarum*, exceptionally among aphid parasitoids, also reproduces by parthenogenesis in most populations (Mackauer & Starý, 1967; Starý, 1988; Belshaw & Quicke, 2003). It is therefore possible to work with genetically uniform lines of host and parasitoid, which allows for powerful tests of genotype-specificity in their interaction. Interestingly, aphids may harbour facultative endosymbiotic bacteria that are vertically transmitted and provide protection against

parasitoids (Oliver *et al.*, 2003). When Vorburger *et al.* (2009) exposed multiple clones of *A. fabae* with and without the defensive symbiont *Hamiltonella defensa* to two parthenogenetic lines of *L. fabarum*, they detected strongly increased resistance in clones harbouring *H. defensa* and a significant aphid clone  $\times$  parasitoid line interaction on the proportion of aphids parasitised. However, this interaction was not observed when clones harbouring *H. defensa* were excluded from the analysis, suggesting that it may be due to specific interactions between symbiont and parasitoid genotypes, and that the direct interaction between aphids and parasitoids is characterised by a lack of genotype-specificity (Vorburger *et al.*, 2009). Yet with only two parasitoid lines tested, this result was far from conclusive. Here we present a more targeted and powerful test of  $G \times G$  interactions between *A. fabae* and *L. fabarum*, yet we arrive at the same conclusion. If the aphids do not harbour any defensive endosymbionts, there is no evidence for genotype-specificity in the interaction between *A. fabae* and *L. fabarum*.

**Materials and methods**

**Animals**

All aphids and parasitoids were collected in June and July 2006 in the course of a Europe-wide sampling effort. The experiment reported here included animals from four different geographic origins, namely (i) the vicinity of Rennes in Brittany, France, (ii) the vicinity of Budweis in South Bohemia, Czech Republic, (iii) the Lower Rhine Valley in north-eastern Switzerland and (iv) the Lower Valais in south-western Switzerland.

In *Aphis fabae*, four different subspecies are described (Heie, 1986; Raymond *et al.*, 2001). They use the same primary hosts (mainly *Euonymus europaeus* and *Viburnum opulus*), where the sexual females mate and lay overwintering eggs, but they differ in the range of secondary host plants used by the parthenogenetic, viviparous summer generations. Here we focus exclusively on the nominal

103 subspecies *A. f. fabae*, which mainly uses broad bean (*Vicia faba*) and several Chenopodiaceae  
104 such as sugar beet (*Beta vulgaris*) or *Chenopodium album* as secondary hosts. Aphids were  
105 collected by clipping infested leaves or shoots of suitable secondary host plants, from which a  
106 single parthenogenetic female was used to establish a clonal line in the laboratory. We maintained  
107 clones on caged seedlings of broad bean (*V. faba*, Var. 'Scirocco') at 20°C and a 16 h photoperiod.  
108 Under these conditions, *A. fabae* reproduces by continuous apomictic parthenogenesis. We  
109 genotyped all clones at eight microsatellite loci (Coeur d'Acier *et al.*, 2004), and we screened them  
110 for the presence of facultative symbiotic bacteria as described in Vorburger *et al.* (2009). From the  
111 clones testing negative for facultative symbionts, we selected six from Rennes and five from each  
112 of the other three sites, all with different multilocus microsatellite genotypes. These genotypes and  
113 detailed collection information for all test clones are available in Table S1.

114 Parasitised colonies of aphids are easily recognised by the presence of 'mummies', i.e. dead  
115 aphids containing the parasitoid's pupa. We sampled parasitoids by collecting colonies with  
116 mummies of known host species of *L. fabarum* into air-permeable containers, where we allowed  
117 the adult wasps to emerge. Single parthenogenetic females were then isolated from each sample  
118 and allowed to attack colonies of *A. fabae* on broad bean to found parthenogenetic isofemale lines.  
119 These lines are since maintained in the laboratory as mass cultures on a highly susceptible clone of  
120 *A. fabae* that was not included in the experiment. All females founding an isofemale line were  
121 genotyped at 11 microsatellite loci (Fauvergue *et al.*, 2005; Sandroock *et al.*, 2007). Unlike aphids,  
122 in which parthenogenetic reproduction only includes mitotic cell divisions (apomixis),  
123 parthenogenetic females of *L. fabarum* undergo a modified meiosis in which diploidy is restored by  
124 central fusion automixis (Belshaw & Quicke, 2003), which is why parthenogenetic isofemale lines  
125 should not be termed clones. Despite that, these lines can be regarded as genetically uniform,  
126 because central fusion automixis rapidly leads to homozygosity distal to chiasmata and leaves  
127 nonrecombining areas of the genome unaffected. This was evidenced by the fact that when re-  
128 genotyped before the experiment in spring 2007, the microsatellite genotypes of parthenogenetic

isofemale lines were still identical to those of the founding individuals in June/July 2006. We included three lines from Rennes and two lines from each of the other three sites in the experiment. Their microsatellite genotypes and collection details are provided in Table S2.

**Experiment**

Our general assay to estimate host susceptibility and parasitoid infectivity, respectively, was to expose known numbers of aphids to wasps for a fixed period of time, and determine the proportion of individuals successfully parasitised (Henter & Via, 1995). If this is done with several host clones and parasitoid lines in a fully crossed factorial design, a  $G \times G$  interaction is detectable as a statistical interaction between host clone and parasitoid line on the proportion of aphids parasitised. The advantages of this approach are that we can determine the outcome of host-parasitoid encounters under realistic conditions in a reasonably complex environment, and that the simplicity of the assay allows for good replication. The disadvantage is that the approach is essentially blind to mechanism and cannot distinguish between pre- and postovipositional defences of hosts. For example, aphids may show behavioural avoidance of parasitoids (Foster *et al.*, 2007), which is unlikely to be genotype-specific. However, Henter & Via (1995) have shown that a resistant and a susceptible clone of the pea aphid did not differ in the number of parasitoid ovipositions they suffered, and Vorburger *et al.* (in press) found that in *A. fabae*, up to three quarters of individuals on which parasitoid attacks have been observed may survive. This suggests that physiological defences of aphids can be quite effective. We therefore assume that the variation observed in our experiment will largely (but not exclusively) reflect the interaction between host and parasitoid after oviposition.

Because this experiment was concerned with the potential presence of  $G \times G$  interactions as a prerequisite for negative frequency-dependent selection and not with local adaptation, we only exposed host and parasitoids from the same site to each other, i.e. we only worked with



155 host/parasitoid combinations that could have occurred in the field. Thus we had a six host clones ×  
156 three parasitoid lines infection matrix for Rennes and a five aphid clone × two parasitoid lines  
157 matrix for each of the other three sites, resulting in a total of 48 different combinations of host and  
158 parasitoid genotypes. Each combination was replicated ten times. We used more aphid clones than  
159 parasitoid lines in this cross-infection experiment because space constraints in the laboratory  
160 prevented us from keeping a larger number of parasitoid lines as mass cages.

161 At the start of the experiment, aphid stock cultures were split into the required number of  
162 colonies by placing two adult females on seedlings of broad bean grown in 0.07 l plastic pots and  
163 covered with a small cage. These colonies were then distributed to random positions in 10 plastic  
164 trays such that each tray contained one replicate of all host clone/parasitoid line combinations  
165 (randomised complete blocks). To avoid any inflation of among-clone differences by  
166 environmental maternal or grand-maternal effects carried over from the stock cultures, the  
167 replicated aphid colonies were maintained for two generations before exposure to parasitoids in the  
168 third generation. The test generation was started by placing seven second-generation adults from  
169 each aphid colony on new seedlings, where they reproduced for 24 h before being discarded. When  
170 their offspring were 48-72 h old, we counted them (mean colony size =  $51.9 \pm 17.1$  SD) and added  
171 two female parasitoids of the required lines to each cage. We removed the wasps again after 6 h  
172 and replaced the cage with a cellophane bag. Although the two wasps might interfere in the same  
173 cage and even superparasitise each other, preliminary trials showed that using two rather than a  
174 single wasps reduces the variation in mummification rates among replicates with the same  
175 combination of genotypes, possibly because this limits the influence of wasps that are unmotivated  
176 to sting. Nine days post exposure to wasps, successfully parasitised aphids were recognisable as  
177 mummies and counted. To keep the daily work doable, we had to temporally stagger the  
178 experiment such that two complete blocks were handled per day over five consecutive days.

**Statistical analyses**

All analyses were carried out with the open source statistical software R 2.7.1 (R Development Core Team, 2008). Substantial overdispersion prevented us from analysing our proportion data as a success-failure vector using a generalised linear model with binomial errors. Instead, we arcsin-square root transformed the proportions of aphids exposed to wasps that were mummified by parasitoids and analysed them with a linear mixed model, using the LMER procedure of LME4, a contributed library to R. We tested for the effects of site (fixed), block (random), host clone (random), parasitoid line (random) and the host clone  $\times$  parasitoid line interaction (random). Site was treated as a fixed effect because with four levels only, the corresponding variance component would be estimated poorly. As the number of aphid nymphs exposed to parasitoids varied somewhat among replicates, we also included colony size as a covariate in the analysis. Tests of fixed effects were carried out with the PVALS.FNC function of the LANGUAGEr library. The function employs Markov Chain Monte Carlo sampling to obtain the highest posterior density (HPD) intervals and associated *P*-values for fixed effect parameters (Baayen, 2008). This offers a modern alternative to conventional significance tests of fixed effects in mixed models based on *t* or *F* statistics, which remain a contentious issue for ongoing disagreement about appropriate degrees of freedom (Baayen *et al.*, 2008). To get an overall test of a fixed effect with more than two levels (i.e. site), the AOVLMEr.FNC function was used. The PVALS.FNC function also provides 95% HPD intervals for random effects. We report these intervals with the estimates of variance components, but because they are constrained to never contain zero, the intervals cannot be used to infer statistical significance (Baayen, 2008; Baayen *et al.*, 2008). Random effects were therefore tested by comparing models with and without the effects using likelihood ratio tests, i.e. by comparing the increase in scaled deviance resulting from removal of the term to a  $\chi^2$ -distribution with *df* = 1.

## Results

Colony size, i.e. the number of aphid nymphs exposed to parasitoids, did not significantly affect the proportion of individuals that were mummified, but there was a significant block effect (Table 1). While the mean rates of successful parasitism did not differ significantly among the four sites included in the experiment, the variation in susceptibility among aphid clones within sites was large and highly significant (Table 1). This was most obvious in aphids from the Rennes area, where there was a more than five-fold difference in susceptibility between the least and the most resistant clone (Fig. 1a). We also found significant variation in infectivity among parasitoid lines (Table 1), but this variation appeared to be general rather than specific to the host clone they attacked. More infective lines tended to mummify a higher proportion of individuals in most aphid clones than less infective lines or, from the host's perspective, more resistant aphid clones generally had a lower proportion of individuals mummified by all parasitoids (Fig. 1). Accordingly, there are only few crossing lines in the interaction plots (Fig. 1), and the host clone  $\times$  parasitoid line interaction is not significant in the analysis (Table 1). We also ran separate analyses for each of the four sites and found this interaction to be non-significant in all cases (all  $P > 0.1$ ), suggesting that the lack of evidence for  $G \times G$  interactions is consistent across four widely separated sites.

## Discussion

In this study, we used the black bean aphid and parthenogenetic lines of its parasitoid *L. fabarum* to test if aphid host-parasitoid interactions exhibit genotype-specific interactions. We found no evidence for genotype-specificity, but we cannot rule out that genotype-specificity would be detected if additional host clones and parasitoid lines were tested. Yet considering that we tested 48 different combinations of host and parasitoid genotypes with ten replicates per combination, we

230 feel confident in concluding that if present at all, such interactions have a weak influence on the  
231 outcome of host-parasitoid encounters compared to the substantial genetic variation for general  
232 resistance and infectivity we observed. However, this conclusion is limited to the 'hard' outcome of  
233 infection, i.e. whether a parasitoid is able to establish in the host and kill it. This is undoubtedly the  
234 trait with the most direct effect on fitness. But we cannot exclude that there may be genotype-by-  
235 genotype interactions on fitness-relevant traits of surviving parasitoids that were not studied here,  
236 such as the time until mummification, the rate of emergence from mummies, or the body size of  
237 emerging parasitoids. In fact, there is some evidence for genotype-by-genotype interactions on  
238 parasitoid body size (Vorburger *et al.*, in press). Similarly, we cannot rule out that there may be  
239 genotype-by-genotype interactions on traits of surviving aphids, e.g. fecundity. We only know that  
240 aphid fecundity is generally reduced upon resisting a parasitoid attack (Vorburger *et al.*, 2008).

241 A lack of specificity in the defences of aphids that are not protected by endosymbionts was also  
242 suggested by the results of a previous study on the same system (Vorburger *et al.*, 2009), as well as  
243 by a study on green peach aphids by von Burg *et al.* (2008), who exposed many aphid clones to two  
244 different species of parasitoids and detected no significant host clone  $\times$  parasitoid species  
245 interaction. A caveat is in order here, however. Since these studies used similar assays as in the  
246 present experiment, it is also possible that part of the variation was due to behavioural mechanisms  
247 that are unlikely to be specific, such as differences in avoidance behaviour among host clones or  
248 variation in the motivation to sting among parasitoids.

249 Although based on somewhat different lines of evidence, Kraaijeveld & Godfray (1999) arrived  
250 at the similar conclusions for *Drosophila*: variation for resistance is general rather than specific to  
251 certain strains or species of parasitoids (but see Dupas *et al.*, 2003). Thus it seems that in contrast to  
252 interactions between hosts and pathogens or microparasites, in which specificity is frequently  
253 observed (see Introduction), insect host-parasitoid interactions may be characterized by a low  
254 degree of genotype-specificity. The similar conclusions from flies and aphids are also interesting  
255 because the mechanisms of defence against parasitoids are almost certainly different in the two

systems. *Drosophila* resists parasitoids by encapsulation, a well-understood defence mechanism that is widespread in insects (Strand, 2008), but typically not observed in aphids (Henter & Via, 1995; Kraaijeveld *et al.*, 2002). Very recent work by Oliver *et al.* (2009) has shown that aphid resistance conferred by the bacterial endosymbiont *H. defensa* is due to phage-encoded toxins, but the mechanistic basis of genetic variation in the aphids' own resistance is still largely unknown.

The large amounts of genetic variation for resistance and infectivity we detected indicate ample scope for directional selection, yet it would be premature to conclude from the lack of  $G \times G$  interactions that reciprocal selection between host and parasitoid cannot be frequency-dependent in the *A. fabae/L. fabarum* system. Models show that negative frequency-dependence may also emerge in host-parasite systems that lack strong specificity as long as increased resistance or infectivity come at a cost (Sasaki & Godfray, 1999; Sasaki, 2000; Agrawal & Lively, 2002). Nothing is known yet about costs of infectivity in aphid parasitoids, but there are studies looking for costs of resistance in aphids, and they provide only limited support for such costs. Gwynn *et al.* (2005) found more resistant clones of the pea aphid to be less fecund on average, but several other studies using larger numbers of aphid clones did not observe this correlation (Ferrari *et al.*, 2001; von Burg *et al.*, 2008; Vorburger *et al.*, 2009). In the *Drosophila/Asobara* system, on the other hand, selection experiments provided evidence for evolutionary costs of resistance as well as costs of infectivity (Kraaijeveld & Godfray, 1997; Kraaijeveld *et al.*, 2001).

Another factor to consider in aphids are defensive endosymbionts like *H. defensa*. Here we only used clones without *H. defensa*, but this bacterium infects a fraction of individuals in many species of aphids. The percentage of infected individuals may vary widely, with estimates ranging from 3 to almost 80% (Darby *et al.*, 2001; Sandström *et al.*, 2001; Darby *et al.*, 2003; Haynes *et al.*, 2003; Leonardo & Muir, 2003; Russell *et al.*, 2003; Ferrari *et al.*, 2004; Vorburger *et al.*, 2009), although populations uninfected with *H. defensa* have also been reported (Tsuchida *et al.*, 2002; von Burg *et al.*, 2008; Wille & Hartman, 2009). In the present study species, *A. fabae*, about one fourth of the individuals seem to be infected on average (Vorburger *et al.*, 2009). Although this

estimate is still based on rather limited sampling, it certainly indicates that *L. fabarum* is typically confronted with a mixture of hosts with and without *H. defensa* in the field. We have recently found preliminary evidence that *H. defensa* may increase not only the overall level but also the specificity of aphid resistance to parasitoids, possibly through symbiont  $\times$  parasitoid genotype interactions (Vorburger *et al.*, 2009, R. Rouchet & C. Vorburger, unpubl. data). As *H. defensa* is vertically transmitted, this would modify how reciprocal selection between hosts and parasitoids acts and therefore affect their coevolution. This interesting possibility deserves further research, for which it is important to know that the direct interaction between host and parasitoid genotypes in our study system is characterised by very limited specificity, as is shown here.

291

292   **Acknowledgements**

293

We thank B. Chaubet, J.-C. Simon and P. Starý for help in the field and J. Ferrari for endosymbiont screening. The manuscript benefitted from comments by J. Shykoff and two anonymous reviewers. Our work was supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation (grants 3100A0-109266 and PP00P3-123376 to C.V.).

298

299   **References**

300

Agrawal, A. & Lively, C.M. 2002. Infection genetics: gene-for-gene versus matching-alleles models and all points in between. *Evol. Ecol. Res.* **4**: 79-90.  
 Baayen, R.H. 2008. *Analyzing Linguistic Data. A Practical Introduction to Statistics*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.  
 Baayen, R.H., Davidson, D.J. & Bates, D.M. 2008. Mixed-effects modeling with crossed random effects for subjects and items. *Journal of Memory and Language* **59**: 390-412.

- 307 Belshaw, R. & Quicke, D.L.J. 2003. The cytogenetics of thelytoky in a predominantly asexual  
308 parasitoid wasp with covert sex. *Genome*. **46**: 170-173.
- 309 Carius, H.J., Little, T.J. & Ebert, D. 2001. Genetic variation in a host-parasite association: Potential  
310 for coevolution and frequency-dependent selection. *Evolution*. **55**: 1136-1145.
- 311 Coeur d'Acier, A., Sembene, M., Audiot, P. & Rasplus, J.Y. 2004. Polymorphic microsatellites loci  
312 in the black Aphid, *Aphis fabae* Scopoli, 1763 (Hemiptera, Aphididae). *Mol. Ecol. Notes*. **4**:  
313 306-308.
- 314 Darby, A.C., Birkle, L.M., Turner, S.L. & Douglas, A.E. 2001. An aphid-borne bacterium allied to  
315 the secondary symbionts of whitefly. *FEMS. Microbiol. Ecol.* **36**: 43-50.
- 316 Darby, A.C., Tosh, C.R., Walters, K.F.A. & Douglas, A.E. 2003. The significance of a facultative  
317 bacterium to natural populations of the pea aphid *Acyrtosiphon pisum*. *Ecol. Entomol.* **28**: 145-  
318 150.
- 319 Dupas, S., Carton, Y. & Poirie, M. 2003. Genetic dimension of the coevolution of virulence-  
320 resistance in *Drosophila* - parasitoid wasp relationships. *Heredity*. **90**: 84-89.
- 321 Fauvergue, X., Tentelier, C., Genson, G., Audiot, P., Guillemaud, T. & Streiff, R.J. 2005.  
322 Microsatellite DNA markers for *Lysiphlebus testaceipes*. *Mol. Ecol. Notes*. **5**: 109-111.
- 323 Fellowes, M.D.E., Kraaijeveld, A.R. & Godfray, H.C.J. 1999. Cross-resistance following artificial  
324 selection for increased defense against parasitoids in *Drosophila melanogaster*. *Evolution*. **53**:  
325 966-972.
- 326 Ferrari, J., Müller, C.B., Kraaijeveld, A.R. & Godfray, H.C.J. 2001. Clonal variation and  
327 covariation in aphid resistance to parasitoids and a pathogen. *Evolution*. **55**: 1805-1814.
- 328 Ferrari, J., Darby, A.C., Daniell, T.J., Godfray, H.C.J. & Douglas, A.E. 2004. Linking the bacterial  
329 community in pea aphids with host-plant use and natural enemy resistance. *Ecol. Entomol.* **29**:  
330 60-65.

- 331 Foster, S.P., Tomiczek, M., Thompson, R., Denholm, I., Poppy, G., Kraaijeveld, A.R. & Powell,  
332 W. 2007. Behavioural side-effects of insecticide resistance in aphids increase their vulnerability  
333 to parasitoid attack. *Anim. Behav.* **74**: 621-632.
- 334 Frank, S.A. 1994. Recognition and polymorphism in host-parasite genetics. *Philos. Trans. R. Soc.*  
335 *Lond. Ser. B-Biol. Sci.* **346**: 283-293.
- 336 Frank, S.A. 1996. Statistical properties of polymorphism in host-parasite genetics. *Evol. Ecol.* **10**:  
337 307-317.
- 338 Gwynn, D.M., Callaghan, A., Gorham, J., Walters, K.F.A. & Fellowes, M.D.E. 2005. Resistance is  
339 costly: trade-offs between immunity, fecundity and survival in the pea aphid. *Proc. R. Soc.*  
340 *Lond. B* **272**: 1803-1808.
- 341 Hamilton, W.D. 1980. Sex versus non-sex versus parasite. *Oikos.* **35**: 282-290.
- 342 Hamilton, W.D., Axelrod, R. & Tanese, R. 1990. Sexual reproduction as an adaptation to resist  
343 parasites (a review). *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* **87**: 3566-3573.
- 344 Haynes, S., Darby, A.C., Daniell, T.J., Webster, G., van Veen, F.J.F., Godfray, H.C.J., Prosser, J.I.  
345 & Douglas, A.E. 2003. Diversity of bacteria associated with natural aphid populations. *Appl.*  
346 *Environ. Microbiol.* **69**: 7216-7223.
- 347 Heie, O.E. 1986. The Aphidoidea (Hemiptera) of Fennoscandia and Denmark. III. Family Aphididae:  
348 subfamily Pterocommatinae & tribe Aphidini of subfamily Aphidinae. *Fauna. Entomol. Scand.*  
349 **17**: 314 pp.
- 350 Henter, H.J. 1995. The potential for coevolution in a host-parasitoid system. II. Genetic variation  
351 within a population of wasps in the ability to parasitize an aphid host. *Evolution.* **49**: 439-445.
- 352 Henter, H.J. & Via, S. 1995. The potential for coevolution in a host-parasitoid system. I. Genetic  
353 variation within an aphid population in susceptibility to a parasitic wasp. *Evolution.* **49**: 427-438.
- 354 Jaenike, J. 1978. A hypothesis to account for the maintenance of sex within populations. *Evol.*  
355 *Theory* **3**: 191-194.



- Judson, O.P. 1995. Preserving genes - a model of the maintenance of genetic variation in a metapopulation under frequency-dependent selection. *Genet. Res.* **65**: 175-191.
- Kraaijeveld, A.R. & Godfray, H.C.J. 1997. Trade-off between parasitoid resistance and larval competitive ability in *Drosophila melanogaster*. *Nature* **389**: 278-280.
- Kraaijeveld, A.R. & Godfray, H.C.J. 1999. Geographic patterns in the evolution of resistance and virulence in *Drosophila* and its parasitoids. *Am. Nat.* **153**: S61-S74.
- Kraaijeveld, A.R., Hutcheson, K.A., Limentani, E.C. & Godfray, H.C.J. 2001. Costs of counterdefenses to host resistance in a parasitoid of *Drosophila*. *Evolution*. **55**: 1815-1821.
- Kraaijeveld, A.R., Ferrari, J. & Godfray, H.C.J. 2002. Costs of resistance in insect-parasite and insect-parasitoid interactions. *Parasitology*. **125**: S71-S82.
- Lambrechts, L., Halbert, J., Durand, P., Gouagna, L.C. & Koella, J.C. 2005. Host genotype by parasite genotype interactions underlying the resistance of anopheline mosquitoes to *Plasmodium falciparum*. *Malaria Journal* **4**: 3.
- Leonardo, T.E. & Muir, G.T. 2003. Facultative symbionts are associated with host plant specialization in pea aphid populations. *Proc. R. Soc. Lond. B* **270**: S209-S212.
- Mackauer, M. & Starý, P. 1967. *World Aphidiidae*. Le François, Paris.
- Oliver, K.M., Russell, J.A., Moran, N.A. & Hunter, M.S. 2003. Facultative bacterial symbionts in aphids confer resistance to parasitic wasps. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* **100**: 1803-1807.
- Oliver, K.M., Degnan, P.H., Hunter, M.S. & Moran, N.A. 2009. Bacteriophages encode factors required for protection in a symbiotic mutualism. *Science* **325**: 992-994.
- Parker, M.A. 1994. Pathogens and sex in plants. *Evol. Ecol.* **8**: 560-584.
- Price, P.W. 1980. *Evolutionary Biology of Parasites*. Princeton University Press, Princeton.
- R Development Core Team 2008. R: a language and environment for statistical computing. <http://cran.r-project.org>.

- Raymond, B., Searle, J.B. & Douglas, A.E. 2001. On the processes shaping reproductive isolation in aphids of the *Aphis fabae* (Scop.) complex (Aphididae : Homoptera). *Biol. J. Linn. Soc.* **74**: 205-215.
- Read, A.F. 1994. The evolution of virulence. *Trends Microbiol* **2**: 73-76.
- Russell, J.A., Latorre, A., Sabater-Muñoz, B., Moya, A. & Moran, N.A. 2003. Side-stepping secondary symbionts: widespread horizontal transfer across and beyond the Aphidoidea. *Mol. Ecol.* **12**: 1061-1075.
- Salvaudon, L., Heraudet, V. & Shykoff, J.A. 2007. Genotype-specific interactions and the trade-off between host and parasite fitness. *BMC. Evol. Biol.* **7**: Art. No. 189.
- Sandrock, C., Frauenfelder, N., Von Burg, S. & Vorburger, C. 2007. Microsatellite DNA markers for the aphid parasitoid *Lysiphlebus fabarum* and their applicability to related species. *Mol. Ecol. Notes.* **7**: 1080-1083.
- Sandström, J.P., Russell, J.A., White, J.P. & Moran, N.A. 2001. Independent origins and horizontal transfer of bacterial symbionts of aphids. *Mol. Ecol.* **10**: 217-228.
- Sasaki, A. & Godfray, H.C.J. 1999. A model for the coevolution of resistance and virulence in coupled host-parasitoid interactions. *Proc. R. Soc. Lond. B* **266**: 455-463.
- Sasaki, A. 2000. Host-parasite coevolution in a multilocus gene-for-gene system. *Proc. R. Soc. Lond. B* **267**: 2183-2188.
- Schulenburg, H. & Ewbank, J.J. 2004. Diversity and specificity in the interaction between *Caenorhabditis elegans* and the pathogen *Serratia marcescens*. *BMC. Evol. Biol.* **4**: 49.
- Starý, P. (1988) Aphidiidae. In: *Aphids: Their Biology, Natural Enemies, and Control. Vol. 2B* (eds. A.K. Minks & P. Harrewijn), pp. 171-184. Elsevier, Amsterdam.
- Strand, M.R. 2008. The insect cellular immune response. *Insect Science* **15**: 1-14.
- Tsuchida, T., Koga, R., Shibao, H., Matsumoto, T. & Fukatsu, T. 2002. Diversity and geographic distribution of secondary endosymbiotic bacteria in natural populations of the pea aphid, *Acyrtosiphon pisum*. *Mol. Ecol.* **11**: 2123-2135.

- 406 von Burg, S., Ferrari, J., Müller, C.B. & Vorburger, C. 2008. Genetic variation and covariation of  
407 susceptibility to parasitoids in the aphid *Myzus persicae* – no evidence for trade-offs. *Proc. R.*  
408 *Soc. Lond. B* **275**: 1089-1094.
- 409 Vorburger, C., Gouskov, A. & von Burg, S. 2008. Genetic covariation between effectiveness and  
410 cost of defence in aphids. *Biol. Lett.* **4**: 674-676.
- 411 Vorburger, C., Sandrock, C., Gouskov, A., Castañeda, L.E. & Ferrari, J. 2009. Genotypic variation  
412 and the role of defensive endosymbionts in an all-parthenogenetic host-parasitoid interaction.  
413 *Evolution*. **63**: 1439-1450.
- 414 Vorburger, C., Eugster, B., Villiger, J. & Wimmer, C. in press. Host genotype affects the relative  
415 success of competing lines of aphid parasitoids under superparasitism. *Ecol. Entomol.*
- 416 Webster, J.P. & Woolhouse, M.E.J. 1998. Selection and strain specificity of compatibility between  
417 snail intermediate hosts and their parasitic schistosomes. *Evolution*. **52**: 1627-1634.
- 418 Wille, B.D. & Hartman, G.L. 2009. Two species of symbiotic bacteria present in the soybean aphid  
419 (Hemiptera: Aphididae). *Environ. Entomol.* **38**: 110-115.
- 420

**Table 1** Results of linear mixed effects models for the proportion of aphids mummified by parasitoids. Proportions were arcsin square-root transformed before analysis. *P*-values of random effects are based on likelihood ratio tests, *P*-values of fixed effects on the HPD intervals obtained from MCMC sampling as implemented in the LANGUAGE library of R (Baayen, 2008).

Source	Variance components for random effects/		
	coefficient for covariate (95% HPD)	LR $\chi^2_1$	<i>P</i>
Colony size	-0.0009 (-0.0024, 0.0006)		0.215
Block	0.0025 (0.0004, 0.0095)	8.893	0.003
Site	-		0.237
Host clone (site)	0.0195 (0.0065, 0.0253)	104.070	< 0.001
Parasitoid line (site)	0.0071 (0.0015, 0.0272)	23.408	< 0.001
Host clone × parasitoid line (site)	0.0013 (0.0000, 0.0034)	0.585	0.445
Residual	0.0518 (0.0462, 0.0604)		

**Figure captions**

**Fig. 1** Interaction plots depicting the susceptibility of clones of *Aphis fabae* from four geographic origins to syntopic lines of the parthenogenetic parasitoid *Lysiphlebus fabarum*. Aphid clones are ordered by increasing mean susceptibility. Each point represents the mean of 10 replicate assays of the same combination.

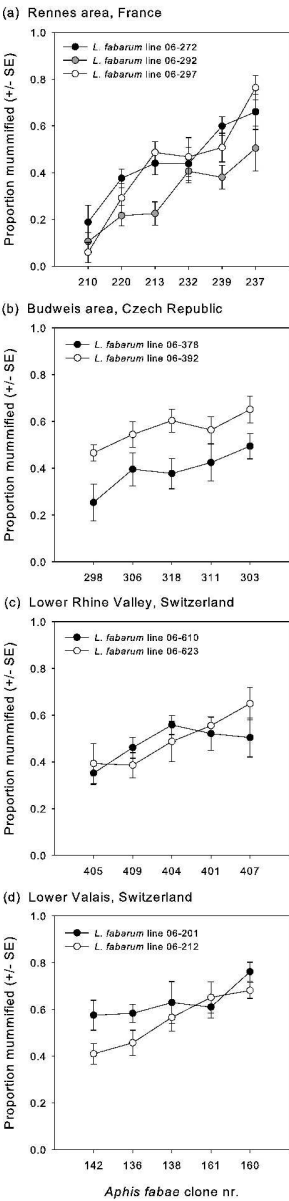


Fig. 1. Interaction plots depicting the susceptibility of clones of *Aphis fabae* from four geographic origins to syntopic lines of the parthenogenetic parasitoid *Lysiphlebus fabarum*. Aphid clones are ordered by increasing mean susceptibility. Each point represents the mean of 10 replicate assays of the same combination.  
86x326mm (600 x 600 DPI)

**Table S1.** Collection information and genotypes at eight microsatellite loci (Coeur d'Acier *et al.*, 2004) for the 21 clones of *Aphis fabae* used in this study.

Sample ID	Collection site	Latitude, longitude	Host plant	Microsatellite locus							
				AF-48	AF-50	AF-82	AF-85	AF-86	AF-181	AF-beta	AF-F
Lower Valais, Switzerland											
136	Martigny	46°06'N, 7°04'E	<i>Vicia faba</i>	313 315	257 272	179 188	220 220	219 219	311 311	280 282	132 136
138	Martigny	46°06'N, 7°04'E	<i>Vicia faba</i>	315 319	257 272	167 177	220 220	219 219	309 309	280 282	127 127
142	Fully	46°08'N, 7°07'E	<i>Vicia faba</i>	315 319	257 272	177 177	220 224	219 219	311 325	280 282	127 136
160	Sion	46°14'N, 7°21'E	<i>Vicia faba</i>	315 315	272 272	177 188	220 220	215 219	311 311	280 297	127 134
161	Sion	46°14'N, 7°21'E	<i>Vicia faba</i>	321 321	255 257	167 177	220 220	215 219	309 309	282 282	129 136
Rennes area, France											
210	Le Rheu	48°06'N, 1°47'W	<i>Vicia faba</i>	313 315	257 257	165 171	220 222	219 219	309 309	280 318	127 132
213	Le Rheu	48°06'N, 1°47'W	<i>Vicia faba</i>	313 315	257 272	167 177	220 220	219 219	311 311	295 301	127 129
220	Le Rheu	48°06'N, 1°47'W	<i>Vicia faba</i>	313 315	272 272	177 177	220 224	219 219	309 313	280 280	127 134
232	Vezin le Coquet	48°07'N, 1°45'W	<i>Vicia faba</i>	313 313	257 272	177 177	220 222	219 219	311 325	280 280	123 127
237	Le Verger	48°04'N, 1°56'W	<i>Vicia faba</i>	313 319	272 272	173 182	222 222	217 219	311 311	266 280	117 127
239	Le Verger	48°04'N, 1°56'W	<i>Vicia faba</i>	315 315	257 272	177 192	220 222	217 219	309 313	280 280	127 127
Budweis area, Czech Republic											
298	Stráž nad Nežárkou	49°04'N, 14°54'E	<i>Vicia faba</i>	307 315	272 272	171 177	220 220	219 219	309 313	280 282	127 127
303	Stráž nad Nežárkou	49°04'N, 14°54'E	<i>Vicia faba</i>	315 321	272 276	175 177	220 224	219 219	309 313	266 297	127 134
306	Stráž nad Nežárkou	49°04'N, 14°54'E	<i>Vicia faba</i>	313 319	257 272	167 177	220 220	215 219	309 311	280 282	129 132
311	Stráž nad Nežárkou	49°04'N, 14°54'E	<i>Vicia faba</i>	313 321	272 274	177 204	220 220	217 219	311 311	282 282	127 127
318	Stráž nad Nežárkou	49°04'N, 14°54'E	<i>Vicia faba</i>	313 313	255 257	177 177	222 224	217 217	309 313	282 291	127 129
Lower Rhine Valley, Switzerland											
401	St. Margrethen	47°27'N, 9°38'E	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	307 321	257 274	177 198	220 220	219 219	311 311	282 282	127 134
404	St. Margrethen	47°27'N, 9°38'E	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	307 313	272 272	177 177	220 220	217 219	313 313	280 280	129 129
405	St. Margrethen	47°27'N, 9°38'E	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	315 317	257 257	167 177	220 220	217 219	311 311	280 282	127 127
407	St. Margrethen	47°27'N, 9°38'E	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	315 315	272 272	177 177	218 220	215 215	309 309	280 282	127 127
409	St. Margrethen	47°27'N, 9°38'E	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	313 315	257 257	177 177	220 224	219 219	309 309	280 282	127 134

**Table S2.** Collection information and genotypes at 11 microsatellite loci (Fauvergue *et al.*, 2005; Sandrock *et al.*, 2007) for the two thelytokous lines of *Lysiphlebus fabarum* used in this study.

Sample ID	Collection site	Lat., long.	Collected from	Microsatellite locus										
				Lysi02	Lysi03	Lysi05	Lysi06	Lysi07	Lysi08	Lysi10	Lysi13	Lysi15	Lysi16	Lysi5a12
Lower Valais, Switzerland														
06-201	Sion	46°14'N, 7°21'E	<i>A. f. cirsiacanthoides</i> on <i>Cirsium arvense</i>	092 115	167 167	112 122	197 197	183 183	092 094	098 098	119 121	105 105	125 125	176 176
06-212	Sion	46°14'N, 7°21'E	<i>A. f. fabae</i> on <i>Vicia faba</i>	108 119	167 167	110 110	197 201	183 183	092 094	096 171	121 125	103 103	117 117	176 176
Rennes area, France														
06-272	Vezin le Coquet	48°07'N, 1°45'W	<i>A. hederae</i> on <i>Hedera helix</i>	098 098	165 167	112 112	195 199	183 183	094 107	123 139	123 125	103 103	117 117	176 176
06-292	Le Rheu	48°06'N, 1°47'W	<i>A. ruborum</i> on <i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	082 236	165 170	110 112	203 203	183 183	094 094	107 107	121 123	101 101	109 109	176 176
06-297	Le Rheu	48°06'N, 1°47'W	<i>A. f. cirsiacanthoides</i> on <i>Cirsium arvense</i>	084 096	165 167	110 120	197 203	183 183	092 109	111 165	119 119	103 103	125 125	174 174
Budweis area, Czech Republic														
06-378	Stráž nad Nežárkou	49°04'N, 14°54'E	<i>A. f. fabae</i> on <i>Vicia faba</i>	086 113	167 167	110 110	197 201	183 183	092 094	096 181	121 125	103 103	117 117	176 176
06-392	Stráž nad Nežárkou	49°04'N, 14°54'E	<i>A. hederae</i> on <i>Hedera helix</i>	092 229	161 165	110 112	197 201	183 183	092 107	096 139	125 125	109 109	125 125	176 176
Lower Rhine Valley, Switzerland														
06-610	St. Margrethen	47°27'N, 9°38'E	<i>A. ruborum</i> on <i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	086 262	165 170	110 112	203 203	183 183	094 094	107 107	121 123	103 103	109 109	174 174
06-623	St. Margrethen	47°27'N, 9°38'E	<i>A. hederae</i> on <i>Hedera helix</i>	238 238	165 169	112 112	195 195	183 183	094 098	111 135	123 123	107 107	135 135	174 174

References:

Cœur d'Acier, A., Sembene, M., Audiot, P. & Rasplus, J.Y. 2004. Polymorphic microsatellite loci in the black Aphid, *Aphis fabae* Scopoli, 1763. *Mol. Ecol. Notes* **4**: 306-308.

Fauvergue, X., Tentelier, C., Genson, G., Audiot, P., Guillemaud, T. & Streiff, R.J. 2005. Microsatellite DNA markers for *Lysiphlebus testaceipes*. *Mol. Ecol. Notes* **5**: 109-111.

Sandrock, C., Frauenfelder, N., von Burg, S. & Vorburger, C. 2007. Microsatellite DNA markers for the aphid parasitoid *Lysiphlebus fabarum* and their applicability to related species. *Mol. Ecol. Notes* **7**: 1080-1083.